(b) the details of the present stock of rakes/coaches, the number of rakes/coaches actually available for service and the number needed for service in the Sealdah and Howrah divisions of Eastern Railway and South Eastern Railway; and

(c) the number of overage coaches/rakes still in service?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The present holding of EMUs on Eastern and South Eastern Railways is 135 rakes/1245 coaches, both for traffic service requirements as well as for running maintenance and periodic overhaul.

(c) 157 coaches as on 1-4-1991.

Railway Line from Ambaguda to Kesinga (SER)

*316. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct a railway line from Ambaguda to Kesinga in Waltair Division;

(b) if so, whether the survey for this project has been completed;

(c) the cost of the project and when it is proposed to be constructed; and

(d) the places in Koraput and Kalahandi districts likely to be connected by this railway line?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Though no survey has been done from Amagura-Kesinga, a survey was done in 1965-66 from Lanjigarh Road to Amagura. Keeping in view the proposed Alumina Plant near Bhawanipatna, survey for part of the route from Lanjigarh Road (Near Kesinga) to Junagarh has been updated in 1990-91. Construction of the line from Lanjigarh Road to Junagarh (54 km) at a cost of Rs. 80 crores has been approved by the Planning Commission for being taken up subject to the coming up of the Alumina Plant. The surveyed line passes through Bhawanipatna.

ONGC Complex at Ramanathapuram

*317. DR. V. RAJESHWARAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount to be spent on drilling operations in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up an Oil and Natural Gas Commission office complex at Ramanathapuram;

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Two wells have been drilled in the past at a cost of Rs. 0.7 crores. Four wells are to be drilled at an estimated cost of Rs. 13 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Oil Exploration and Production by Indian and Foreign Companies

*318. SHRI MORESHWAR SAVE:
SHRI INDARJIT GUPTA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to invite tenders from the international and national oil companies for accelerating the pace of crude oil production and exploration;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the companies/countries proposed to be invited;

(c) The details of the blocks identified which are likely to be handed over to those companies; and

(d) The terms and conditions therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Government has decided to invite the Fourth Round of bids from international and Indian companies for exploration for oil and gas in India. 72 blocks—39 offshore and 33 onshore—in 17 basins are proposed to be offered, subject to environmental clearance. Companies possessing requisite financial and technical expertise can bid. The contracts would be production-sharing contracts.

Cancellation of Train between Samastipur and Khagariya

*319. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the passenger trains running in the morning and evening between Samastipur and Khagariya junction (North-Eastern Railway) via Rosda have been cancelled for the last few months;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to restore this train; and

(d) if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) The run of 415Up/41Dn Samastipur-Banmankhi train has been cancelled between Samastipur and Saharsa.

(b) This was one of the 83 trains that had to be cancelled due to dislocation caused by extensive civil disturbances and damage to railway property during anti-reservation agitation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

[*English*]

Khurda Road-Bolangir Railway Line

*320. SHRI SIVAJI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to conduct resurvey for the construction of a new railway line from Khurda Road to Bolangir on the South Eastern Railway; and

(b) if so, the action taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Privatisation of Vayudoot

*321. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Vayudoot is incurring heavy losses every month;

(b) if so, the details thereof for the last one year and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any plan to privatise the Vayudoot; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?